



For Immediate Release

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Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate per Public Act 250 of 1982



Prevent Child Abuse America
Michigan Chapter

Richard Bearup, the current executive director of the Children's Trust Fund of Michigan (CTF), today announced he is leaving his post effective January 1, 2009 to enter the private sector.

Bearup, who has been in charge of CTF since January 2006 said he was privileged to have steered the state's lead agency for child abuse and neglect prevention through a much-needed rebuilding period.

CTF was established in Michigan law in 1982 through the bipartisan efforts of then-State Representative Debbie Stabenow and former Governor William Milliken. Its purpose is to raise and grant charitable dollars to fund community-based child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. While nominally a state agency, CTF has never accepted or used state tax dollars in its 25 year history and yet has raised more than \$60 million during that period.

"CTF today bears little resemblance to what it was three years ago," Bearup said. "The CTF staff team and our statewide operations have become professional, high-performing and accountable. Today's team is the best I have ever had the pleasure of working with – truly a 'dream team.'"

Bearup, who previously served as Michigan's first Children's Ombudsman, said CTF is now positioned well to prevent the maltreatment of the state's most vulnerable citizens, in part because of accomplishments marking his tenure. The CTF under Bearup has:

- Increased the size of the Trust Fund endowment during challenging economic times
- Increased the amount of child abuse and neglect prevention grants to local communities
- Established local prevention councils in all 83 counties for the first time in CTF history
- Set record increases in charitable fundraising
- Met national child maltreatment prevention standards for the first time in CTF history

- more -



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- Ensured the integrity and accountability of charitable donations with financial reforms
- Established annual satisfaction surveys with stakeholders to track and measure progress
- Improved customer service and communications with CTF grantees and partners
- Brought CTF into compliance with legal requirements and best practices
- Recruited Muhammad and Lonnie Ali as CTF Ambassadors
- Established a first-in-the-nation partnership between CTF's prevention work and Michigan State University's Department of Advertising for research and marketing

“We cannot just take child abuse seriously – we have to take it personally,” Bearup said. “As Muhammad Ali has said, ‘children are living messages we send to a time and place we will never see.’ Child abuse prevention is a responsibility every citizen shares.”

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